

Costly Things in Great Cities.

Boston has 120 hotels and seven gas companies.
Baltimore's new marble City Hall cost \$3,000,000.
The present area of the city of Boston is 10,170 acres.
The Chicago Custom House and Post Office cost \$3,500,000.
The Boston Post Office, begun in 1871, cost over \$2,000,000.
The area of the city Chicago is thirty-five square miles.
The first ship built in Boston was the *Trial*, completed in 1644.
The expense of governing New York city is over \$30,000,000 annually.
The site of the city of Boston was sold in 1635 by John Blackstone for £30.
It cost \$5,356,669 to run the city government of Chicago in 1884, against \$4,464,000 in 1883.
A new system of sewerage for Baltimore, to cost \$5,000,000, is under favorable consideration.
Since 1873 a new State House has been erected at Hartford, at an expense of \$2,500,000.
The water frontage of Boston is about 20,000 feet, and ships are accommodated at 164 wharves.
The area of Paris within the fortifications, pretty well covered with buildings, is twenty eight square miles.
The area of closely built stores and residences of London, including the most populous suburbs, is 120 square miles.
Including the interest on the public debt it requires about \$4,000,000 a year to pay the municipal expenses of Baltimore.
During twenty years the population of New York city increased 50 per cent, while the expense of government increased 400 per cent.
The new City Hall of Boston cost over \$500,000. Providence wanted something better, and erected a magnificent building for \$750,000.
Manhattan Island, the site of the city of New York, was purchased from the Indians in 1626 for \$24. Now it is worth more than \$2,000,000,000.
Druid Park of Baltimore, contains 600 acres. It was purchased for the city for about \$800,000. The city also has twelve public squares.
Yale College, founded in 1701, now has ninety instructors, between eleven and twelve hundred students, and property valued at over \$5,000,000.
The funded debt of St. Louis is over \$20,000,000, of which \$7,193,000 is for water works, \$5,353,573 for public parks, and \$4,286,700 for public buildings.
The six parks of Chicago, aggregating nearly 1,900 acres, are connected by a cordon of boulevards 250 feet wide, extending around the three land sides of the city.
The Philadelphia gas works cost that city, \$11,500,000. There has been great corruption in their management, and some of the newspapers advocate selling or leasing them to a private company.
The cost of the city gas works of Berlin, in round numbers, was \$7,000,000. The water works cost \$8,000,000, and the drainage works the same amount. The sewage is pumped from the city.
Mayor Low of Brooklyn calls attention to the advantage that are arising from the system of driven wells put down by Chief Engineer Van Buren for increasing the water supply of that city.
The amount of water used by the London Fire Department in 1884 was only 60,000,000 gallons. The eight London water companies are by law required to furnish water free for the extinguishment of fires.
Babies that were born after the first money was appropriated for the "new" Capitol of New York State voted at the recent Albany municipal election, and the Legislature passed a bill appropriating \$1,000,000, to complete the building at a total cost of more than \$20,000,000.
The new Post Office building at the corner of Broadway and Park Row, New York, cost nearly \$7,000,000. It is the finest building devoted to the purpose on the Continent. San Francisco would be satisfied with a new Post Office that could be constructed for half the cost of New York's monumental building.
A private company (English) first introduced water into Berlin in 1854. The property of the company was bought by the city in 1873. Twenty-three great reservoirs supply the city, by means of enormous pumps, through a well devised system of pipes, and 17,000 water meters measure the supply to as many consumers.
Civil law is dispensed in New York by seven Judges of the Supreme Court, at \$11,500 a year each; six Judges of the Common Pleas, at \$15,000 each; six Judges of the Superior Court, at \$15,000 each; six City Court Judges, at \$10,000 each, and ten Justices of the District Court (Justices of the Peace), at \$6,000.
Baltimore is well protected against fires, having erected 600 hydrants at appropriate street corners to supply water for the use of her fire department. That city owns water works, and it costs little or

nothing for water to extinguish fires. San Francisco is more prudent than Baltimore. It has paid the Spring Valley Water Works from \$40 to \$60 each for erecting 1,436 hydrants, and pays the same company \$30 per annum for the right to use water at each hydrant.—*Exchange*.

Romantic History.

A recent dispatch from Bridgeport, Conn., stated that Baldwin Jensen, a Danish sailor, just before his death, off Honolulu, had confessed to Capt. Donaldson, master of the ship, that he had, in 1873 murdered Capt. George M. Colvocoressis in the streets of Bridgeport, and produced a seal ring that is known to have belonged to the deceased, as proof of the truth of his story. As Capt. Colvocoressis had a large insurance on his life, and as a pistol with which he was shot was found at his side, it was thought that he had committed suicide, and it was only after a long contest, which resulted in a compromise, that the insurance companies at last consented to pay anything to the family. In what manner he met his death has remained a mystery until the confession of the sailor above referred to.
Capt. Colvocoressis was a retired naval officer, and was well known by Pay Director Schenck and other officers on this coast where he had served. This romantic history made him well known to all naval officers, who have many amusing stories to relate concerning the trouble which the pronunciation of his name caused. He was a Greek by birth, and a native of the island of Scio, in the Grecian Archipelago. During the revolution against the Turks, in 1822, the inhabitants of Scio arose, but were soon subdued by the Turkish fleet, and within two months 25,000 of them were killed and 45,000 sold as slaves. It was during this massacre in 1822 that Colvocoressis first saw the American flag, under which he subsequently served with distinction. In the hope of saving their children, the parents of Colvocoressis and another Greek child put them into a boat and set them adrift on the Mediterranean, where they were found by a United States man-of-war, and rescued. Colvocoressis was then, probably, four or five years of age, and his companion, George Sirian, about as old. The boys were taken charge of by the officers of the ship, and were maintained by them and educated. Colvocoressis was entered at the Naval School of that day, and in 1832 was graduated a midshipman, and entered into the service of the United States. Sirian, in 1837, entered the Navy as a gunner, and is now in the service. Colvocoressis was the more fortunate man of the two. He married twice, and with one marriage secured a large fortune. His investments of money were unusually good, and he obtained a very large amount of prize money during the Rebellion, by the capture of a steamer which ran under the bows of the United States ship Supply, which he commanded. The blockade-runner got under the bows of the Supply, before she knew that a vessel was in the vicinity, and in an instant a gun was turned on her and she was turned over as a prize, although she could easily have escaped. After the war Capt. Colvocoressis was retired from the service, and took up his residence in Litchfield, Conn. During a visit to Bridgeport, on banking business he was killed. The large amount of bonds which he had taken with him were never found, which is explained by the confession of the Danish sailor who stated that he threw them into the water, so that they might not betray him. The only thing he secured was the ring, which has been recognized.—*S. F. Paper*.

Fireside Fancies.

Probably the greatest happiness we have, we get at home. As a talented lady once said: "The strength of a nation, especially of a Republican nation, is in the intelligent and well ordered homes of the people."
Home is the shelter that veils in the pure from the peridy of the outside world. There is magic in that little word—it is a mystic circle that surrounds comforts and virtues never known beyond its hallowed limits.
When the day's work is finished, leaving the storm of life behind, what a spirit of independence comes to us when safely anchored in the quiet harbor of a peaceful home. As Dickens says: "If ever house hold loves and affections are graceful things, they are graceful in the poor. The ties that bind the wealthy and the proud to home may be forged on earth; but those which link the poor man to his humble hearth are of the true metal and bear the stamp of heaven."
It is there the occurrences of the day are repeated, each little trouble told, each plan discussed, advice received, and the gay chatter of talking as freely as we think; fearing from each other no ridicule, nor unkind criticism. One home, one fireside, a safeguard in temptation, and a reward for all noble endeavors, a beacon light to many a weary heart. It does not make much difference whether that home

is filled with luxury or whether it is but one little room, filled with such sweet fancies, that its four walls will be fairly luminous with their presence. Many find pleasure in the crowded theater, and many delight in the multitude of a christian congregation; but the music of a well-ordered home is the fire of a holy purpose welling up out of the depths of eternal springs.—*Exchange*.

The Water Supply of the Orient.

In the principal Indian cities it is no longer necessary to drink boiled water, owing to the excellent supplies furnished by the public water works. In Jaffa the water is intolerably brackish. In Rontschuck the muddy Danube is filtered and sold to the native Bulgarians. In Vienna the water works are very extensive and the water the best I know of, being nearly ice-cold on the hottest day. In Aden the public water supply is obtained by condensing and distilling common sea water by means of large engines. This unpalatable product is then sold for as high as eight cents a gallon. Rains are too rare to be depended upon. Filtered rain water is used in Jerusalem, and if you want enough for a bath you must pay for it extra. This suggests the matter of baths. Whatever the resident Occidentals in the Orient may be morally, they endeavor to be physically clean. Usually a room in a hotel includes a special bath-room adjoining, and nearly every hotel in a private house is similarly equipped. A morning bath is regarded as a matter of necessity, and an evening bath as a barely dispensable comfort. Even the first class railway coaches in India are in many cases equipped with bath-rooms, with shower-baths, so that you may take your regular ablutions while whirling along at full speed. Many of the railway depots are also provided with baths, so that you may utilize tedious waits by cleaning yourselves.
The Japanese bathe to excess, using such hot water that fatal syncope is an occasional consequence. With the Japs the bath is a sensuous luxury. They delight in relieving themselves of superfluous clothing.
On the other hand, their neighbors, the Chinese, get inside as much clothing as possible, and are never seen in the streams with which their country abounds bathing or swimming. The Malays and the natives of Aden, many of them are scarcely less than human ducks. A bit of silver cannot reach the bottom of the sea before they have it. The Hindus and Bramins bathe—especially in the Ganges—as a religious exercise, smearing the body with oil first if they can afford it.—*Exchange*.

Gladstone's Eulogy of Gordon.

The tight honorable gentleman (Sir Stafford Northcote) has dwelt with the utmost propriety and the utmost feeling on the loss which the country has sustained in the death of General Gordon. He stated that General Gordon had devoted his life and all that makes life valuable to his sovereign and to his country. Sir, he might have enlarged that eulogium, for the life of General Gordon was not limited to even those great objects. It was devoted to his sovereign, to his country, and likewise to the world. General Gordon's sympathies were not limited by race, or color, or religion. In point of fact, he seems to have deemed it his special honor to devote his energies and to risk his existence on behalf of those with whom he had no other tie than that of human sympathy.
General Gordon was a hero, and permit me to say he was still more—he was a hero among heroes. For there have been men who have obtained and deserved the praise of heroism whose heroism was manifested on the field of battle, or in other conflicts, and who when examined in the tenor of their personal lives, were not altogether blameless; but if you take the case of this man, pursue him into privacy, investigate his heart and his mind, you will find that he proposed to himself not any ideal of wealth and power, or even fame, but to do good was the object he proposed to himself in his whole life, and on that one object it was his one desire to spend his existence.
Such is the man we have lost—a loss great indeed; but he is not all lost, for such examples are fruitful in the future, and I trust there will grow from the contemplation of that character and those deeds other men who in future time may emulate his noble and most Christian example.—*London Times*.

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